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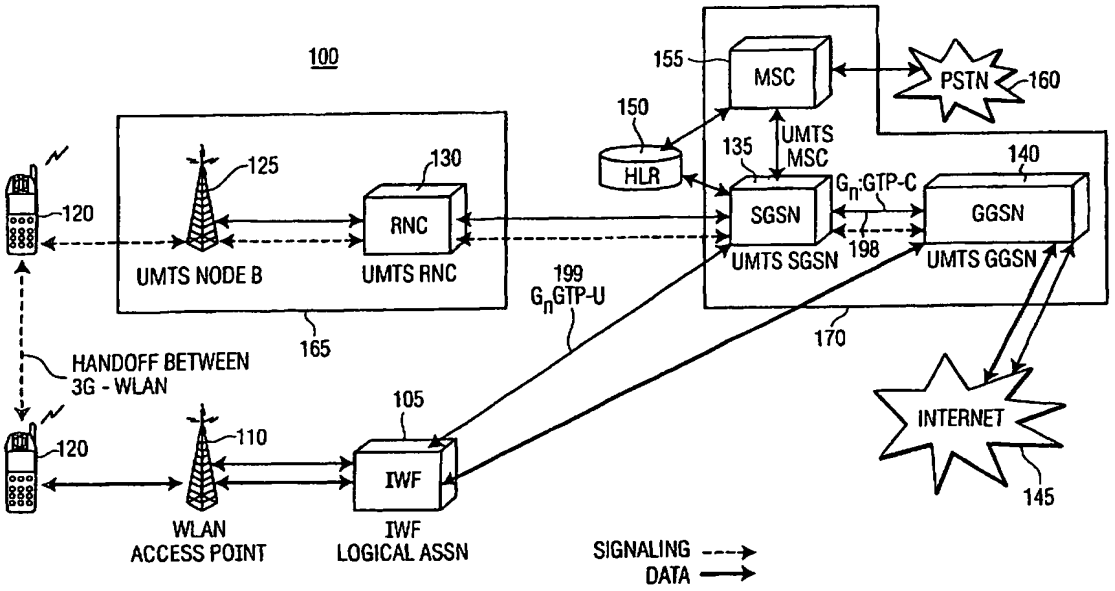
(54) Title: WLAN AS A LOGICAL SUPPORT NODE FOR HYBRID COUPLING IN AN INTERWORKING BETWEEN WLAN AND A MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: There is provided a method for supporting an interworking between a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) and a mobile communications network. The mobile communications network, for example UMTS network, has a Gateway General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) Support Node (GGSN) and a Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN). The interworking is facilitated by an InterWorking Function (IWF). The method comprises the steps of establishing (199) at least one GPRS Tunneling Protocol - User plane (GTP-U) tunnel between the IWF and the GGSN for transferring data signals, and establishing (198) at least one GPRS Tunneling Protocol - Control plane (GTP-C) tunnel between the GGSN and the SGSN for transferring control signals.

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